

Claims 2, 7, 8, 12, 16-19, 22-25, 28-31, 34-48, 55, 56, 61, 64-75, 77, 82, 83, 87, and 92 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Particularly, claims 2, 12, 39-48, 56, 64-75, 77, and 78 stand rejected for containing the phrase “such as”. Responsive thereto Applicant has amended claims 2, 12, 39, 40, 56, 64, 67, and 77 by eliminating the phrase “such as”.

Claims 7, 8, 17, 18, 23, 24, 29, 30, 35, 36, 38, 45, 55, 61, 66, 72, 82, 83, and 92 stand rejected for containing the word “including”. Responsive thereto Applicant has amended claims 7, 17, 23, 29, 35, 45, 55, 61, 66, 72, 82, and 92 by eliminating the word “including”.

Claims 2, 12, 56, 67, 77, and 87 stand rejected for containing the trademark “Carbopol”. Responsive thereto Applicant has amended claims 2, 12, 56, 67, 77, and 87 by eliminating the trademark “Carbopol”.

Claims 7, 17, 23, 29, 35, 45, 55, 61, 66, 72, 82, and 92 stand rejected for containing the phrase “their functional equivalent”. Responsive thereto Applicant has amended claims 7, 17, 23, 29, 35, 45, 55, 61, 66, 72, 82, and 92 by eliminating the phrase “their functional equivalent”.

Claims 16, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 31, 34, 35, 37, 55, and 66 stand rejected on account there is no antecedent basis for the limitation “polyalkylene glycol”. Responsive thereto Applicant has amended claims 11, 21, 27, 33, 54, and 65 by deleting the term “polyethylene” and substituting therefor the term “polyalkylene”.

Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 2, 7, 8, 12, 16-19, 22-25, 28-31, 34-48, 55, 56, 61, 64-75, 77, 82, 83, 87, and 92 based on the amendments made to the claims.

Claims 47, 55, 63, 66, and 74 have been amended by deleting “suspension” and substituting therefor “composition”.

Claims 83, 84, and 94 have been amended by deleting “suspension” and substituting therefor “method”.

Claims 1, 2-6, 9-11, 13-15, 20, 21, 26, 27, 32, 33, 49-54, 57-60, 62, 63, 76, 78-81, 84-86, 88-91, and 93-98 have been allowed.

The prior art made of record has been reviewed by Applicant and is deemed not to anticipate nor render obvious the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims and earnestly solicits early allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: 20 November 2002

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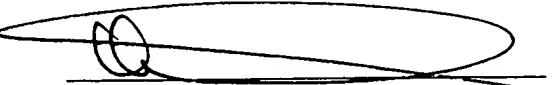
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AMENDED CLAIMS MARKED TO ILLUSTRATE REVISIONS

2. (amended) The suspension according to claim 1 wherein the water-soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, cationic guar, hydrophobically modified guar, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified cationic guar, pectin, alginates, locust bean gum, gum arabic, gum acacia, carrageenan, hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl cellulose, alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, starch, gum tragacanth, gum karaya, tara gum, xanthan gum, welan gum, succinogluconates, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylates, and [such as the Carbopol® type] polyacrylamides.

7. (amended) The suspension according to claim 1 wherein the polyalkylene glycol includes a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

11. (amended) A non-aqueous suspension, comprising:

- (a) about 0.1 to about 75 percent by weight water-soluble polymer;
- (b) about 20 to about 99.8 percent by weight [polyethylene] polyalkylene glycol; and
- (c) about 0.1 to about 5 percent by weight hydrogenated castor oil or wax.

12. (amended) The suspension according to claim 11 wherein the water-soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, cationic guar, hydrophobically modified guar, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified cationic guar, pectin, alginates, locust bean gum, gum arabic, gum acacia, carrageenan, hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl cellulose, alkyl

ethers of cellulose, hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, starch, gum tragacanth, gum karaya, tara gum, xanthan gum, welan gum, succinoglucans, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylates, and [such as the Carbopol® type] polyacrylamides.

17. (amended) The suspension according to claim 11 wherein the polyalkylene glycol further comprises between about 0.1 and 2.0% by weight of the polyalkylene glycol of a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

21. (amended) A non-aqueous suspension, comprising:

- (a) about 0.1 to about 40.0 percent by weight xanthan gum;
- (b) about 55 to about 99.8 percent by weight [polyethylene] polyalkylene glycol; and
- (c) about 0.1 to about 5 percent by weight hydrogenated castor wax.

23. (amended) The suspension according to claim 21 wherein the polyalkylene glycol further comprises between about 0.1 and 2.0% by weight of the polyalkylene glycol of a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

27. (amended) A non-aqueous suspension, comprising:

- (a) about 0.1 to about 75 percent by weight guar gum;
- (b) about 55 to about 99.8 percent by weight [polyethylene] polyalkylene glycol; and
- (c) about 0.1 to about 5 percent by weight hydrogenated castor wax.

29. (amended) The suspension according to claim 27 wherein the polyalkylene glycol further comprises between about 0.1 and 2.0% by weight of the polyalkylene glycol of a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted

hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

33. (amended) A non-aqueous suspension, comprising:

- (a) about 0.1 to about 50 percent by weight cationic-, hydroxyalkyl-, carboxyalkyl-, or carboxyalkylhydroxyalkyl-derivatized guar gum;
- (b) about 55 to about 99.8 percent by weight [polyethylene] polyalkylene glycol; and
- (c) about 0.1 to about 5 percent by weight hydrogenated castor wax.

35. (amended) The suspension according to claim 33 wherein the polyalkylene glycol further comprises between about 0.1 and 2.0% by weight of the polyalkylene glycol of a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

38. (amended) The suspension according to claim [29] 33 further comprising one or more of the following additive materials selected from the group consisting of acids, bases, buffers, surfactants, demulsifiers, non-emulsifiers, foaming agents, antifoaming agents, scale inhibitors, corrosion inhibitors, polymer preservatives, bactericides, antioxidants, fluid loss additives, water miscible co-solvents, formation clay stabilizers, crosslinkers, polymer breakers, and gel breakers.

39. (amended) A composition comprising environmental chemical, agricultural chemical, paper chemical, textile chemical, construction or building product ingredient [(such as paint, joint cement, textured finishing compound)], cosmetic ingredients, hair spray, gelatin substitute, ceramic material, cleaning composition, polish, ink, fire-fighting chemical, metal-working chemical, adhesive chemical, explosive chemical, flocculent, water treatment compound, binder chemical for sand, ores or coal or oil field chemical which includes a non-aqueous suspension, comprising:

- (a) one or more water-soluble polymers;
- (b) polyalkylene glycol; and
- (c) a suspension stabilizer comprising an hydrogenated castor oil or wax.

40. (amended) The composition according to claim 39 wherein the water-soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, cationic guar, hydrophobically modified guar, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified cationic guar, pectin, alginates, locust bean gum, gum arabic, gum acacia, carrageenan, hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl cellulose, alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, starch, gum tragacanth, gum karaya, tara gum, xanthan gum, welan gum, succinoglucans, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylates, and [such as the Carbopol® type] polyacrylamides.

45. (amended) The composition according to claim 39 wherein the polyalkylene glycol includes a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

47. (amended) The [suspension] composition according to claim 39 wherein the polyalkylene glycol has a molecular weight of less than 1000.

54. (amended) The composition of claim 49 wherein the non-aqueous suspension comprises:

- (a) about 0.1 to about 75 percent by weight water-soluble polymer;
- (b) about 20 to about 99.8 percent by weight [polyethylene] polyalkylene glycol; and
- (c) about 0.1 to about 5 percent by weight hydrogenated castor oil or wax.

55. (amended) The [suspension] composition according to claim 54 wherein the polyalkylene glycol further comprises between about 0.1 and 2.0% by weight of the polyalkylene glycol of a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

56. (amended) The composition according to claim 49 wherein the water-soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, cationic guar, hydrophobically modified guar, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified cationic guar, pectin, alginates, locust bean gum, gum arabic, gum acacia, carrageenan, hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl cellulose, alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, starch, gum tragacanth, gum karaya, tara gum, xanthan gum, welan gum, succinoglucans, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylates, and [such as the Carbopol® type] polyacrylamides.

61. (amended) The composition according to claim 49 wherein the polyalkylene glycol includes a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

63. (amended) The [suspension] composition according to claim 49 wherein the polyalkylene glycol has a molecular weight of less than 1000.

64. (amended) A composition of a polymer solution or dispersion comprising environmental chemical, agricultural chemical, paper chemical, textile chemical, construction or building product ingredient [(such as paint, joint cement, textured finishing compound)], cosmetic ingredients, hair spray, gelatin substitute, ceramic material, cleaning composition, polish, ink, fire-fighting chemical, metal-working chemical, adhesive chemical, explosive chemical, flocculent, water treatment compound, binder chemical for sand, ores or coal or oil field chemical which includes a non-aqueous suspension, comprising:

(a) non-aqueous suspension from about 0.001 to about 10 percent by weight of the total weight, the non-aqueous suspension, comprising:

- (i) one or more water-soluble polymers,
- (ii) polyalkylene glycol, and
- (iii) a suspension stabilizer comprising an hydrogenated castor oil or wax; and

(b) water from about 90 to about 99.999 percent by weight of the total weight.

65. (amended) The composition of claim 64 wherein the non-aqueous suspension comprises:

- (a) about 0.1 to about 75 percent by weight water-soluble polymer;
- (b) about 20 to about 99.8 percent by weight [polyethylene] polyalkylene glycol; and
- (c) about 0.1 to about 5 percent by weight hydrogenated castor oil or wax.

66. (amended) The [suspension] composition according to claim 65 wherein the polyalkylene glycol further comprises between about 0.1 and 2.0% by weight of the polyalkylene glycol of a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

67. (amended) The composition according to claim 64 wherein the water-soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, cationic guar, hydrophobically modified guar, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified cationic guar, pectin, alginates, locust bean gum, gum arabic, gum acacia, carrageenan, hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl cellulose, alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, starch, gum tragacanth, gum karaya, tara gum, xanthan gum, welan gum, succinoglucans, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylates, and [such as the Carbopol® type] polyacrylamides.

72. (amended) The composition according to claim 64 wherein the polyalkylene glycol includes a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

74. (amended) The [suspension] composition according to claim 64 wherein the polyalkylene glycol has a molecular weight of less than 1000.

77. (amended) The method according to claim 76 wherein the water soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, cationic guar, hydrophobically modified guar, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified cationic guar, pectin, alginates, locust bean gum, gum arabic, gum acacia, carrageenan, hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl cellulose, alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, starch, gum tragacanth, gum karaya, tara gum, xanthan gum, welan gum, succinoglucans, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylates, and [such as the Carbopol® type] polyacrylamides.

82. (amended) The method according to claim 76 wherein the polyalkylene glycol includes a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

[84] 83. (amended) The [suspension] method according to claim 82 wherein the hydrated thickening silicas are selected from the group consisting of colloidal gel silicas and hydrophobic derivatives thereof.

[85] 84. (amended) The [suspension] method according to claim 76 wherein the polyalkylene glycol has a molecular weight of less than 1000.

87. (amended) The method according to claim 86 wherein the water soluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of guar, hydroxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl guar, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, cationic guar, hydrophobically modified guar, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl guar, hydrophobically modified cationic guar, pectin, alginates, locust bean gum, gum arabic, gum acacia, carrageenan, hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, carboxyalkyl cellulose, alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl hydroxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified carboxyalkyl cellulose, hydrophobically modified alkyl ethers of cellulose, hydrophobically modified hydroxyalkyl methyl cellulose, starch, gum tragacanth, gum karaya, tara gum, xanthan gum, welan gum, succinoglucans, polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylates, and [such as the Carbopol® type] polyacrylamides.

92. (amended) The method according to claim 86 wherein the polyalkylene glycol further comprises between about 0.1 and 2.0% by weight of the polyalkylene glycol of a thickener selected from the group consisting of partially neutralized polyacrylic acid, hydroxypropyl cellulose, highly substituted hydroxypropyl guar, and hydrated thickening silicas [including fumed silica and hydrophobic fumed silica, their functional equivalents, and mixtures thereof].

94. (amended) The [suspension] method according to claim 86 wherein the polyalkylene glycol has a molecular weight of less than 1000.